

Message Text

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ACTION NASA-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ADP-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 INR-10

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E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TSPA, TECH, FR
SUBJECT: SKYLAB AND FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTS

PASS NASA

1. SUMMARY: FONOFF REQUESTS ORBITAL PARAMETERS FOR U. S. SPACE FLIGHTS WHICH MAY TAKE PLACE DURING FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTS. END SUMMARY.

2. AS PRIOR TO FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS, ALLINE AND DE KERROS OF QUAI NUCLEAR AFFAIRS SECTION CALLED IN SCIENCE OFFICER TO ANNOUNCE THAT FRANCE INTENDS CONDUCT NUCLEAR TESTS AT MURUROA WHEN WIND CONDITIONS BECOME FAVORABLE. AS PREVIOUSLY, HE DECLINED PROVIDE TEST DATES, THIS YEAR REFUSED EVEN DEFINE PERIOD DURING WHICH TESTS MIGHT BE CONDUCTED, CONFINING HIMSELF TO ABOVE REFERENCE TO SEASON WHEN WINDS ARE FAVORABLE. NEVERTHELESS HIS QUESTIONS AND REMARKS LEFT NO DOUBT THAT THIS INTERVIEW CONSTITUTED ABOUT ONE- MONTH NOTICE AND THAT FRENCH CONCERN IS PRIMARILY FOR FIRST SKYLAB FLIGHT.

3. ALLINE SAID TESTS WOULD BE CONDUCTED WITHIN THE ATMOSPHERE, THEREFORE ONLY RISK FOR ASTRONAUTS MIGHT BE FLASH FROM TEST. PER INSTRUCTIONS FROM PREVIOUS YEARS, EMBOFF REMINDED ALLINE OF POSSIBLE

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DANGER FROM APPARENTLY LITTLE UNDERSTOOD NUCLEAR TEST- GENERATED ELECTRO- MAGNETIC PLUSE. ALLINE NOTED THIS REMARK WITOUR COMMENT.

4. ALLINE THEN REQUESTED FOLLOWING DATA FOR MANNED SKYLAB FLIGHTS:
1) LAUNCH DATES AND TIMES; 2) PREDICTED ORBARTICIPATING IN ERTS EXPERIMENTS. ALL ERTS IMAGERY IS IN PUBLIC DOMAIN.
IMAGERY IS TAKEN OVER GENERAL AREAS SELECTED BY EXPERIMENTERS.

NONE OF OUR BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES PROVIDE FOR RESTRICTIONS ON DATA DISSEMINATION OR ACQUISITION. SOME OF THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF REMOTE SENSING FROM SPACE ARE ABOUT TO BE REVIEWED BY THE UN WORKING GROUP ON REMOTE SENSING, A SUB-SIDIARY ORGANIZATION OF THE OUTER SPACE COMMITTEE, BUT IT IS THE US POSITION THAT OUR PRESENT PRACTICES WITH RESPECT TO ERTS ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE OUTER SPACE TREATY. FURTHER BACKGROUND COVERED IN REFAIR.

3. FYI. FOR POLICY REASONS US CANNOT ACCEPT FOREIGN RESTRICTIONS ON ACQUISITION OF DATA FROM SPACE OR DISSEMINATION OF SPACE- ACQUIRED DATA. HOWEVER, WE HOPE THAT GOA'S SECURITY CONCERN MAY BE ALLAYED, AT LEAST FOR PRESENT, BY FACT THERE WILL BE NO ERTS IMAGERY OVER AFGHANISTAN FOR SEVERAL YEARS OWING TO CONSIDERATIONS PARA 1 ABOVE. END FYI.

4. SUGGEST POST LIMIT DISCUSSION THIS SUBJECT TO POINTS ABOVE. GOA COMMENTS SHOULD BE REPORTED THROUGH DEPARTMENT CHANNELS SLUGGED FOR SCI AND AID. ROGERS

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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